



Felicia A. Bell

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Felicia Bell is the Director of Education and Outreach at the United States Capitol Historical Society. She organizes educational programs such as college courses, teacher workshops, and symposia to promote and preserve the history of the Capitol and Congress. The Society's newest traveling exhibit, "From *Freedom's* Shadow: African Americans and the United States Capitol," is Ms. Bell's curatorial debut. It is a survey of the black experience at the Capitol from the enslaved and free black labor used to construct the building to the current African American Members of Congress who serve their constituents in the building. Ms. Bell was inspired to do research and create the exhibit after taking a guided tour of the Capitol where the contributions of African Americans was scarcely a subject of discussion. In an effort to begin a dialogue on the topic, "From *Freedom's* Shadow" will travel to institutions and schools across the United States through February 2008.

Prior to moving to Washington, D. C., Ms. Bell was the Director of Education and Programs at the Coastal Heritage Society in Savannah, Georgia. She graduated from Savannah State University, the oldest public university in Georgia for African Americans, in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in history. She earned a master's degree in historic preservation in 2002 from Savannah College of Art and Design, which has been recognized as one of the nation's leading institutions in historic preservation. Ms. Bell is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at Howard University where she is writing a dissertation about the enslaved and free black labor used to construct the Capitol.